

Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 874

S E C R E T TEHRAN 2997

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IR

SUBJ: PRODUCER/CONSUMER PREPCON

REF: A. STATE 73868 B. STATE 73748 C. TEHRAN 2877 D. TEHRAN 2847

1. SHAH EXPECTED RETURN TO TEHRAN FROM KISH ISLAND APRIL 3 AND YEGANEH DEPARTING EVENING OF APRIL 3 FOR PARIS TO ATTEND PRELIMINARY MEETING OF OPEC AND LDC DELEGATIONS DUE TO BEGIN APRIL 4. ACCORDINGLY IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH SHAH (PER REF B) PRIOR TO YEGANEH'S DEPARTURE.

2. DCM SAW YEGANEH MORNING OF APRIL 3 AND GAVE HIM A LETTER DRAWING ON REF B AND PIECE OF PAPER BASED ON REF A. YEGANEH, AFTER READING BOTH CAREFULLY, COMMENTED THAT GOI AND USG SEEM TO AGREE ON ALMOST EVERYTHING EXCEPT AGENDA. MATTER OF DISCUSSING RAW MATERIALS IS VERY BASIC ISSUE, HE COMMENTED, BOUND UP WITH ISSUE OF WHAT KIND OF CONFERENCE WE ARE TO HAVE. YEGANEH REITERATED AGREEMENT WITH USG VIEW THAT THIS PROBLEM MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO DISRUPT CONFERENCE, AND REPEATED MORE EXPLICITLY HIS SUGGESTION (REPORTED REF C) THAT WHILE "RAW MATERIALS" MUST BE TAKEN UP, ISSUE COULD PERHAPS BE KEPT FROM BOGGING DOWN CONFERENCE BY FARMING IT OUT TO STUDY COMMITTEES, ALONG WITH OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS MONETARY REFORM (SEE REF C). REVIEWING OTHER ISSUES, YEGANEH AGREED WHOLLY WITH USG OBJECTIVE OF AVOIDING POLARIZATION, BUT SAID PAST YEAR'S DEVELOPMENTS HAVE SEEN STRONG TRENDS TOWARD "TWO-CAMP" APPROACHES--

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THE IEA'S WORK TENDING TO MAKE MANY THINK IN TERMS OF PRODUCER

VERSUS CONSUMER FACE-OFF, AND TOHER FORCES PUSHING IDEA OF LDC'S VERSUS DC'S. YEGANEH AGREED WITH USG IDEAS ON CHAIRMANSHIP, BUT SAID THAT WHILE IT WOULD BE GOOD TO DISCUSS CHAIRMANSHIP AT PRE-PCON, CATUAL DECISION SHUULD BE LEFT TO LARGER FORMAL CONFERENCE (AFTER ALL, HE SAID, WE MUST LEAVE THEM SOMETHING TO DECIDE).

3. RE QUESTION RAISED PARA 1F OF REF B, PLEASE SEE TEHRAN 2216 AND 2016 FOR SHAH'S ATTITUDE ON INCLUSION OF RAW MATERIALS. SIMILAR VIEWS EXPRESSED BY AMOUZEGAR TO UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON. GOI CLEARLY CAUGHT TO SOME EXTENT BETWEEN DESIRE THAT CONFERENCE ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING AND DESIRE TO MAINTAIN THE PROPER POLITICAL POSTURE. YEGANEH'S GOAL, AS SUGGESTED, WILL BE TO TRY TO HELP FORGE A COMPROMISE THAT WILL SERVE BOTH OBJECTIVES.

4. US DELEGATION MAY CONTACT YEGANEH THROUGH MR PARVIZ ZOL'EIN OF THE IRANIAN EMBASSY IN PARIS. YEGANEH PROBABLY CHOSEN TO HEAD GOI REPRESENTATION BECAUSE OF EXPERIENCE REPRESENTING IRAN IN IBRD AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. TOO, THERE IS INSTITUTIONAL GAP IN GOI FOR THIS SORT OF CONFERENCE BELOW MINISTERIAL LEVEL: NIOC HAS NOT ACQUIRED EXPERIENCE IN THIS SORT OF DIPLOMACY; IT KNOWS OIL, BUT HAS LITTLE INTEREST IN AID, DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE, RAW MATERIALS, ETC. CENTRAL BANK, WHICH HAS SOME INTEREST IN ALL THESE MATTERS, INCLUDING OIL, SEEMS TO US A LOGICAL CHOICE IN THIS CASE. YEGANEH HIMSELF HAS VERY GOOD ENGLISH, WIFE IS AMERICAN (FROM NEW YORK). HE IS SOMEWHAT SHY AND RETIRING, BUT FIRM. HE SPEAKS SOFTLY, IS INTELLIGENT AND FORTHCOMING. HE LIKES SUBSTANCE AND SPECIFICS, IS BORED AND PUT OFF BY GENERALITIES. THERE IS ONLY ONE SENSIBLE WAY TO APPROACH HIM: IN SPIRIT OF FRANK AND FRIENDLY EQUALITY. WE THINK US DELEGATION SHOULD FIND YEGANEH AGREEABLE MAN TO WORK WITH.
HELMS

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